

• FourWinds Travel



December 2, 1998

Representative Sam Farr
380 Alvarado Street
Monterey, CA 93940

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC 11 PM 3:38

DOCKET SECTION

98 DEC 11 AM 9:28
OFFICE OF LITIGATION

48024

OST-98-4775-38

Dear Sam,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of United Airlines, followed by Delta and American, to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the **fires** of concern about the lack of airline competition in to&y's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Warmest, Personal Regards,

Dan Presser

Owner, **FourWinds** Travel

cc:

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue and 10th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC 11 PM 3:48

The Honorable Senator of New Jersey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 205 10

The Honorable Congressman(women)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

DOCKET SECTION

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an employee of a travel agency.

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Sincerely,



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United States Senate
Washington, DC 205 10

The Honorable Congressman (woman)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 205 15

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Sincerely, *MARIAN LYNN*

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Maria Bellis

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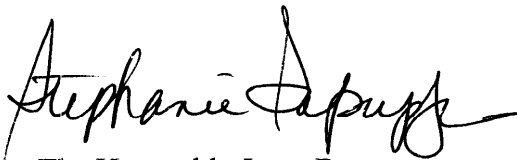
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